



Louisiana Housing Finance Agency

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LHFA Staff Receive Certification from HUD

Baton Rouge, LA (January 4, 2008) – Three staff members from the Louisiana Housing Finance Agency were recently recognized by the Department of Housing and Urban Development as Certified HOME Program Specialists. Tina Powell, Jason St. Romain and Jeffrey Hevey attended the required training, then sat for and passed the Certified Specialist exam in October. According to the HUD website, “this is an important training program designed to recognize HOME experts throughout the country.”

The HOME Program was established under the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act and is the largest Federal block grant to State and local governments designed exclusively to create affordable housing for low-income households. Each year, approximately \$2 billion dollars are allocated to States and localities through this program. By becoming certified, these LHFA staff members show their knowledge and understanding of how best to maximize these dollars for the benefit of the citizens of this state.

Those receiving the certification were: Tina Powell, Program Administrator, with the LHFA since April, 2007; Jason St. Romain, HOME Program Manager, with the LHFA since November, 2006; and Jeffrey Hevey, HOME Finance Specialist, with the LHFA since July, 2007.

Attaining this distinction not only shows a knowledge of HUD rules and regulations, but how to apply those rules and administer the numerous programs funded through the HOME funds. “This is a very notable achievement by these staff members,” said LHFA President Milton Bailey. “You have to show competency in every facet of this program.”

“I am very proud to have these two members of my department receive this certification,” said Tina Powell. “It shows their focus, determination and commitment. The LHFA and the residents of Louisiana will reap the rewards of their hard work.”

The Louisiana Housing Finance Agency (LHFA) was created by the Louisiana Legislature to address the shortage of safe and affordable housing in Louisiana. Since 1980, LHFA has administered federal and state funds through programs designed to advance the development of energy efficient and affordable housing for low and moderate income families. Post-Katrina, LHFA has been a viable resource in the development of rental housing and homeownership finance opportunities.